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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: REACTION TO THE 16TH SCC

REF: USIS TOKYO 120605Z JUL 76

SUMMARY: JAPANESE MEDIA REACTED WITH HIGH INTEREST, SOME UNDERSTANDING AND GENERAL CAUTION TO THE RESULTS OF THE 16TH SCC. NEWS ITEMS COVERED PRIMARILY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE COOPERATION (SDC), THE LIST OF FACILITIES TO BE RELEASED IN OKINAWA, AND REMARKS AT THE SCC ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON THE MEANING OF THE SDC, GREETING ITS ESTABLISHMENT GINGERLY WITH GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF ITS NECESSITY BUT CAUTION THAT GOJ NOT BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF IN THE NEW ORGAN. THE JCP AND JSP OPPOSITION PREDICTABLY WERE REPULSED. ALL IN ALL--THE SCC WAS RECOGNIZED AS AN IMPORTANT EVENT (COMPETING WITH LOCKHEED FOR THE FRONT PAGES), AND THE MEDIA GAVE A CAUTIOUS GO AHEAD TO THE SDC. END SUMMARY.

1. SUPPLEMENTING AND SUMMARIZING MEDIA REACTION REPORTED REFTEL TO WASHINGTON ADDRESSES, THIS CABLE REVIEWS SIGNIFICANT REACTIONS TO THE 16TH
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SCC HELD IN TOKYO JULY 8. NEWS STORIES, BASED

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ON THE AGREED PRESS STATEMENT, A BILATERIAL PRESS
CONFERENCE, AND BACKGROUNDERS HIGHLIGHTED SIGNIFICANCE
OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SDC, THE LIST OF FACILITIES
RELEASED ON OKINAWA AND SCC DISCUSSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS IN THE FAR EAST.

2. ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, THERE WERE NUMEROUS
REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA AND AMBASSADOR
HODGSON HAD AGREED THAT A MAJOR CONFLICT ON THE KOREAN
PENINSULA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS UNLIKELY,
AND ALSO THAT JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAKATA HAD MADE AN
APPEAL FOR THE CONTINUED STATIONING OF US FORCES
IN THE ROK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BALANCE BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH, AND AS A NECESSITY FOR THE
MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE FAR EAST. THE
SANKEI REPORTED THAT THE TWO SIDES
TOOK A GUARDED ATTITUDE TOWARDS RECENT CONSPICUOUS
MOVES NEAR JAPAN BY USSR FORCES. REGARDING US-SINO
RELATIONS THE US SIDE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT
FOR THE TIME BEING THERE WILL BE NO SHARP OR SUDDEN CHANGES.

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SDC WAS WIDELY REGARDED BY MEDIA
AS A SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT DESTINED TO MAKE THE
MILITARY TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIESHCLOSER.
THE YOMIURI SAID "IT IS QUITE NATURAL FOR JAPAN
TO CONSULT WITH US ON MILITARY COOPERATION IN AN
EMERGENCY FOR IF CLEAR DECISIONS ARE ARRIVED AT
ON WHAT TO DO IN SUCH A CASE, IT MAY SERVE AS A
DETERRENT AGAINST PROSPECTIVE AGGRESSORS".
HOWEVER, SEVERAL PAPERS CALLED FOR A CAUTIOUS OR
PRUDENT ATTITUDE ARGUING THE US MAY PRESS TO EXPAND THE
SCOPE OF CONTEMPLATED EMERGENCIES TO INCLUDE
DEFENSE OF AREAS BEYOND JAPAN, OR THAT THE US
MAY PRESS JAPAN TO INCREASE HER DEFENSE FORCES
OR TAKE A LARGER SHARE OF THE BURDEN IN PEACETIME.
THE ASAHI WAS SUSPICIOUS HAT THE SDF WOULD BECOME
A "SUBCONTRACTOR" OF THE U.S. FORCES.

4. AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM ACCORDING TO ASAHI IS NEED TO INSURE
CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER TALKS ON MILITARY COOPERATION.
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IT NOTED THAT "DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MILITARY OFFICERS
OF TY TWO COUNTRIES...HAVE BEEN ABSORED INTO THE
SDC. BUT THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE A FORMALITY, WITH
UNIFORMED MEN PLANI PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN SDC
TALKS ON DEFENSE COOPERATION." THE ASAHI
OPINED THAT "SINCE THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE CONCERNED
WITH MATTERS WHICH ARE APT TO BE KEPT BEHIND THE
VEIL OF SECRECY WE WISH TO BE ASSURED THAT THE

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GENERAL OUTLINE OF DISCUSSIONS (IN THE SDC) WILL BE
REPORTED TO THE DIET WITHOUT FAIL AND THAT
NO SECRET AGREEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED. THAT
IS THE BEST WAY TO STRENGTHEN CIVILIAN CONTROL",
TE ASAHI CONCLUDES.

5. TE JSP AND JCP PREDICTABLY RAPPED THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF THE SDC, THE JSP CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT
WITH DRAGGING JAPAN INTO THE US FAR EAST MILITARY
STRATEGY, AND THE JCP WARNED THE NEW MACHINERY
WAS DESIGNED TO FORGE JOINT OPERATIONS BETWEEN
US AND JAPANESE FORCES AND THAT SUCH ACTION
WOULD IMPERIAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN JAPAN AND ASIA.

6. IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW WITH INTERNATIONAL
PRESS WHICH HAS NOT BEEN WIDELY PICKED UP IN THE
VERNACULAR, ADMIRAL GAYLER IS QUOTED AS SAYING
"WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THEREARE IMPORTANT AND CORRECT
CONSTTUTIONAL RESTRAINTS ON JAPAN". "WHEN
WE COMPARE (JAPANESE AND US MILITARY CAPABILITIES)
WE TEND TO OVERLOOK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BASES
JAPAN MAKES AVAILABLE TO US. I KIND OF LIKE IT
(JAPAN'S MILITARY CAPABILITY) HE WAY IT IS." GAYLER IS
ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE US FORCES MAY BE SPREAD TOO
THIN AND THAT HE "WOULD BE HAPPIER WITH MORE FORCES
OUT HERE, PARTICULARLY MORE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND MORE
OF A NAVY...ANOTHER CARRIER." HE ALSO BELIEVED
JAPAN NEEDS MORE UPDATED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
AND A BOOST IN ITS ASW CAPABILITY.
HODGSON

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